

February 1, 2005

Dear Friend:

I would like to invite you to join me at one of the community forums I'm sponsoring to discuss the rampant use and production of the illegal drug known as "meth" in our communities. The forums are targeted at educating local residents across our Second District of Oregon and learning from you what more I can do to help with this critical issue on the local level. From southern Oregon to Hood River, Redmond to Baker City and points in between, we'll have a lot to talk about. Please join me at a forum that is convenient for you (doors open 45 minutes before each event):

- **Medford:** Friday, February 11, 1:30-3:30 pm – City Council Chambers (411 West 8th St. 3rd Floor)
- **Grants Pass:** Saturday, February 12, 8:30-10:30 am – Ann Basker Auditorium (604 NW 6th Street)
- **Hood River:** Friday, February 18, 3:00-5:00 pm – Hood River Middle School (1602 May Street)
- **Redmond:** Thursday, February 24, 10:00-12:00 am – Deschutes County Fairgrounds (Middle Sister Room)
- **Klamath Falls:** Friday, February 25, 12:30-2:30 pm – OIT's Mt. Mazama Room (3201 Campus Drive)
- **Baker City:** Friday, March 4, 1:30-3:30 pm – Geiser Grand Hotel (1996 Main Street)
- **Pendleton:** Friday, March 4, 6:00-8:00 pm – City Chambers (500 SW Dorian Ave)

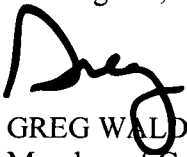
I hope that you'll be able to join invited community leaders, local experts from law enforcement and anti-drug coalitions, federal and state officials and representatives from the Governor's office at one of these important events. We'll share valuable information about meth in your area and steps you can take with your neighbors to help keep our streets, schools and communities safe from the scourge of illegal drugs.

As a father of a son in high school and a member of the Congressional Caucus to Control and Fight Methamphetamine and the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug-Free America, I am very troubled by the rise in production, trafficking and use of meth and particularly concerned that our part of Oregon, home to only 20% of the population, had 35% of the state's meth lab seizures in 2004. I've cosponsored legislation to undermine production across the country, and continue to stand with you to fight this alarming trend in our communities.

It is not just users of meth whose lives are dramatically affected. We all experience the costs of this toxic substance through increases in theft, violence, neglected children and the substantial need for tax dollars to fund law enforcement and drug prevention and treatment programs required to address the problem. Quite simply put – meth is a highly addictive, destructive drug that we must combat at every level. It is only through continued coordination between local, state and federal government, law enforcement, business leaders, educators, the healthcare community and all citizens that we can combat the threat posed by this drug.

I value your input, and hope you will join with me and others in your community on February 18.

Best regards,



GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

P.S. On the reverse side of this invitation is a fact sheet entitled "The Truth About Methamphetamine." You can also visit my website at www.walden.house.gov for more about the community forum series and the fight against this dangerous drug.

The Truth About Methamphetamine

WHAT IS IT?

It's called **METHAMPHETAMINE** or **METH**. Common street names include **crank, crystal, speed, chalk, glass, zip and ice**.

Meth can be found in **crystal, tablet and powder forms**. Meth takes the form of an **off-white or yellowish bitter-tasting crystalline powder** that dissolves in **water or alcohol**.

People inject it, snort it, smoke it or even swallow it.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Meth releases high levels of a brain chemical called **dopamine**, which enhances mood and body movement. Meth results in the damage of brain cells and results in decreased levels of dopamine, which can lead to **Parkinson disease-like symptoms**.

Meth is created by **cooking** various uncontrolled substances. Most of these items can be purchased at neighborhood stores. The most important ingredient used to make meth is **ephedrine or pseudoephedrine**. This ingredient can not be replaced or substituted.

Meth generally costs the same or less than crack cocaine, but the high lasts much longer. Meth is sold on the street in **quarter grams, half grams, grams, or as "eight-balls"** (one-eighth of an ounce or three-and-a-half grams). The cost ranges from **\$25 to \$100 per gram**.

Common effects of meth may include: memory loss • increased heart rate • convulsions • violent behavior • paranoia • extreme weight loss • sleep deprivation • impaired speech • stroke • numbness • seizures • loss of pleasure • hallucinations • dramatic mood swings • and even death.

Meth makes your teeth turn yellow, gray or black, or even fall out.

Meth causes the user to hallucinate and to pick at imaginary bugs crawling under their skin causing open skin sores



Meth makes the user smell bad, with body odor resembling glue or mayonnaise

Meth literally cooks your organs, body fat and muscle through elevated body temperature

How Does Meth Use Effect Oregonians?

- In Oregon, law enforcement officials estimate that 85 percent of property crimes, and crimes involving identity theft, are directly tied to meth use.
- Meth use destroys families. In Oregon, most cases in which children are removed from the home by the state and placed in foster care involve meth use.
- The expense of meth-lab clean-ups are the responsibility of property owners and can cost thousands of dollars.
- Staffing of law enforcement narcotics task forces has decreased 35 percent since 1997, leaving the state vulnerable to meth use and production.

What Can You Do?

Contact your local Prevention Office
or
your local Law Enforcement Agency
or
Visit Congressmen Walden's website:
WWW.WALDEN.HOUSE.GOV
and click on the following image



Information provided by Oregon Partnership